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WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY GIVING FUND - PROJECT ASSESSMENT BY CONTACT PERSONS

NAME OF PROJECT: International Women's Tribune Centre, Inc. DATE OF GRANT: 1977

ADDRESS: 305 East 46th Street, Sixth Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017 PHONE: 421-5633

PRESENT DIRECTOR: Dr. Anne S. Walker

ADDRESS: Same as above

PHONE: As above

1. In what ways has the project achieved (or is achieving) its original basic project objectives?

* As a communication and information support service for women engaged in development and self-help activities at regional and local level, IWTC has developed:

- An information exchange with the UN Secretariat, delegations and agencies.
- Ten newsletters, two in Spanish, that have been circulated to over 6,000 persons and organizations in more than 100 countries.
- Seven slide/tape presentations, two in Spanish, with copies sent throughout the region involved.
- Extensive correspondence in answer to individual and group requests for information, technical assistance and urgent support needs.

* As a technical assistance service, IWTC has been involved in:

- Personal conferences and meetings with visitors to New York from throughout the world.
- Workshops, two in French, conducted in New York, Barbados, Papua New Guinea, Tehran, Fiji, Jamaica, Ghana and Costa Rica.
- Production of two regional resource books for women, and a global information kit.
- Group presentations in New York, Beirut, Washington, and places listed above.

2. In your own words, briefly describe the changes (long and short term) that have taken place in your community as a result of this project.

The Tribune Centre community is spread throughout the world, but especially in the developing world. Letters and newsletters as well as newspaper clippings and reports of radio broadcasts sent to the office, reinforce the knowledge gained from personal visits to the regions, that the information and actual texts from Centre publications are being recycled and disseminated in many ways. Requests for assistance are being received at an accelerating rate. Skills acquired through workshops are being used in information media, and cross-

regional, inter-regional communications are being stimulated. In the short-term, communication is being established with other groups and resources. In the long-term, communication skills are being acquired that will stand them in good stead in the years to come, and assure the continuance of information and resource sharing within the regions.

3. Is this project still in operation? Yes X
4. Has the emphasis of your program, or services offered, changed in any way since the date of the grant? Please explain.

The change has been primarily in response to demand from the regions, and the resulting expanded range of activities required of the Centre. Only two staff members have been added, with more additions planned in the near future to assist with the increased load, and to provide much-needed support services. (To date, Tribune Centre personnel have not had any secretarial assistance whatsoever).

5. What are the sources of present financial support of the project?

For the 1977-1978 year:

Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church
 Women's Opportunity Giving Fund, United Presbyterian Church
 Swedish International Development Authority
 Canadian International Development Agency
 Ministry for Development Cooperation, The Netherlands
 Carnegie Corporation (through UWI, Jamaica.)

For the 1978-1979 year:

Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church
 Church Women United
 Division of World Service, United Church of Christ
 Ford Foundation
 Swedish International Development Authority
 Ministry for Development Cooperation, The Netherlands

6. Does the project have a contact, or relationship, with your Presbytery or Synod?
 No X
 Does it receive any funds from the Synod? No
 the Presbytery ? No
7. Mark with an "S" those of the following who use your services most. Mark with an "O" those who are most involved in operating the service:

WOMEN S and O. Other: Regional groups and agencies involved in women and development activities, mainly United Nations or non-governmental or church-related regional agencies (such as the Caribbean Church Women, CADEC, Pacific Conference of Churches women, etc.

8. What really excites you about this project at this time? What would you lift up as the most important aspects of the program to be shared?

One of the most exciting aspects of the Tribune Centre's work is to see women developing and producing their own communication and information media and materials. Because these are their own work resulting from skill-sharing and support services provided by the Tribune Centre, they reflect the particular needs and interests of women in their own community. These newly acquired communication and information skills are frequently the first opportunity these women have had to express their own unique reality--one which is distinct from the Western-dominated development views which often are the prevailing ones--in their own manner and in their own words.

It is likewise encouraging to note the stimulation and strength these women receive from women in other regions of the world, as well as within their own region, through contacts made or facilitated by the Tribune Centre. An informal global information exchange network is developing.

Particularly gratifying has been the generous support of development agencies, foundations and church groups, making possible the continuation of this particular link in a women's international network which is emphasizing different ways of work and different values. Women everywhere are beginning to suggest viable alternatives for structuring the present world order, and their suggestions must be heard by the wider public.

9. Please share a specific story (vignette) about a person or persons served by this project. Include comments of participants in the program, if possible.

During one of the brief lulls in the revolution that shook Iran during 1978, the director of IWTC spent five weeks working with the staff of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development in Tehran. This collaborative effort resulted in what now stands as probably the only comprehensive compilation of information and materials painstakingly collected by APCWD over the past two years. When the staff of APCWD had to suddenly withdraw from Tehran to take up temporary residence in Bangkok until an alternative site for the Centre is finally established, they had to leave behind all of their files and library of materials. It is not known yet whether this information can be retrieved. The 347 pages of the APCWD Women's Resource Book 1978 produced by the Tribune Centre contains much of the information they need to carry on under difficult circumstances.

The Resource Book 1978 is more than a book. It entailed a process of integration and morale-building, and for the resident staff of APCWD was an "up-beat" experience amidst the swirling political crisis that affected all their lives. The intense effort expended in compiling all the information contained in the book, brought together the pieces of their work in the Asia and Pacific region, and moulded these into a comprehensive picture of their achievements. To have their names listed in the front of the book was especially gratifying for everyone, right down to the local "tealady" who only read Farsi, but had the list read for her over and over.

10. Enclosed please find three color-Xerox reproductions of slides. Descriptions of what each picture represents are as follows:

1. The resources of the International Women's Tribune Centre, Inc., were used to facilitate decision-making at the 1977 seminar held in Jamaica on The Integration of Women in National Development in the Caribbean. This picture shows some of the graphic visualizations produced by IWTC Director, Anne S. Walker, in response to needs expressed by the leaders and participants of seminar.
2. The slide/tape presentation entitled "Caribbean Women Speak Out" shows much of the process gone through by women in the region in developing their own regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. This picture is taken from that IWTC produced presentation, and shows Lucille Mair, currently Secretary General of the World Conference of the Decade for Women, and Jamaica's Ambassador to Cuba, addressing the participants at the seminar in Jamaica. In the background is Beverley Manley, wife of Jamaica's Prime Minister.
3. One section of the slide/tape presentation "Caribbean Women Speak Out" deals with the special needs of rural women. The Plan of Action calls for "... integrated or special training programmes...for girls and women in rural areas to enable them to participate fully and productively in economic and social development, and to take advantage of technological advances which could reduce the drudgery of their daily lives. Such programmes should include training in modern methods of agriculture and use of improved equipment..." This picture is one of several taken of Caribbean women farmers who are being reached by the programmes with which IWTC is collaborating.

Signed _____

Liaison Resource Centre TA

IWTC services fall roughly into three categories:
Services in these categories have included:

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L - An information exchange with the UN Secretariat, delegations and agencies.

Res - Ten newsletters, two in Spanish, that have been circulated to over 6,000 persons and organizations in more than 100 countries.

Res - Seven slide/tape presentations, two in Spanish, with copies sent throughout the region involved. *(on development issues)*
Audio component has been used as a radio script.

Res - Extensive correspondence in answer to individual and group requests for information, technical assistance and urgent support needs.

* As a technical assistance service, IWTC has been involved in:

Liaison - *approximately 100 persons seeking info and assistance who are*
Personal conferences and meetings with visitors to New York from throughout the world.

TA - *including and Spanish language workshops*
Workshops, two in French, conducted in New York, Barbados, Papua New Guinea, Tehran, Fiji, Jamaica, Ghana and Costa Rica.

TA - Production of two regional resource books for women, and a global information kit.

TA - Group presentations in New York, Beirut, Washington, and places listed above.

L *Bringing persons seeking help with projects together with appropriate specialists.*

2. In your own words, briefly describe the changes (long and short term) that have taken place in your community as a result of this project.

The Tribune Centre community is spread throughout the world, but especially in the developing world. Letters and newsletters as well as newspaper clippings and reports of radio broadcasts sent to the office, reinforce the knowledge gained from personal visits to the regions, that the information and actual texts from Centre publications are being recycled and disseminated in many ways. Requests for assistance are being received at an accelerating rate. Skills acquired through workshops are being used in information media, and cross-